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**Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection  
MS-273**

**Jacob Pennell, Sr. Papers  
Inclusive dates: 1807-1865  
Bulk dates: 1823-1841**

by  
Anastasia S. Weigle  
March 2013

Shelf feet: .5 linear feet  
Number of boxes: 1  
*Accession 94.35.1*

**Cataloged as part of the Merchant Mariners Muster Project, funded  
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## Abstract

### **Jacob Pennell, Sr. (b.1778-d.1841)**

Papers, 1807-1865 (Bulk dates: 1823-1841)

1 Manuscript size box, (.5 Shelf feet)

Shipbuilder and owner from Brunswick, Maine.

Shipping business correspondence from various agents and captains for Pennell vessels including the *Amazon* (Brig), *Charles* (Brig), *Clement* (Bark), *Farmer* (Schooner), *Jacob Pennell* (Ship) and *George* (Brig). There are only a few account records for the *Jacob Pennell* (Ship). Personal papers include three letters address to Jacob Pennell, Sr.—one from brother William, friend Peter O. Alden and a letter regarding his appointment to Justice of the Peace for the state of Maine. Other papers do not seem related to Jacob Pennell, Sr. but were with the papers during accessioning. The papers are organized into three series: Series I: Shipping Business, Series II: Personal Papers, and Series III: Other papers.

Donated by Murray Litchfield.

MS-273. Accession No. 93.35.1.

Related material available at repository, MS-88.

Finding aid available in repository; folder and item-level control.

### **Added entries—persons:**

Given, William S., *Captain*

Martin, Clement, *Captain*

Pennell Sr., Jacob

Pennell, Thomas

Pennell, William

Snow, Jesse, *Captain*

Woodward, Peter, *Captain*

### **Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):**

*Amazon* (Brig)

*Charles* (Brig)

*Clement* (Bark)

*Farmer* (Schooner)

*George* (Brig)

*Jacob Pennell* (Ship)

Pennell Shipyard

### **Added entries—places**

Brunswick (ME)

Pennellville

### **Added entries—key terms:**

Accounts

Cotton trade

Letters

Lumber-trade

Seafaring

Ship Captains

Shipbuilders

Shipbuilding—Brunswick (ME)

Shipping  
Shipyards—Brunswick (ME)  
Sugar-trade  
Voyages and travels  
Wages  
West Indies trade

### **Acquisition**

Murray Litchfield donated the Jacob Pennell, Sr. papers to the Maine Maritime Museum on May 20, 1994.

### **Provenance**

The donor found the collection in a house where he grew up at 244 Maine Street in Brunswick, Maine. This was the former home of Captain Samuel Berry who was lost at sea on the brig *Guadalupe* in 1844. According to the accession record Berry's wife was Hannah Bates Pennell the daughter of Jacob Pennell. However, a genealogical search (<http://treesancestry.com>) reveals Hannah Bates Pennell (b. 1806-d. 1876) was the daughter of William Pennell (b. 1781-b.1832). William Pennell was the brother of Jacob Pennell, Sr.

### **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on the study or use of these materials.

### **Physical Condition**

The papers are in fair condition with tears, stains and missing fragments. Most papers were carefully flattened using a tacking iron on medium heat. Most papers were sleeves in archival Melinex with archival paper between pages to prevent any migration of acidic ink. A request for librarian assistance is recommended when handling papers.

### **Processing Notes**

The Jacob Pennell, Sr. papers came folded and housed in acidic envelopes (modern day). The papers did not appear to have any particular order nor was there any logical reasoning for their grouping in this manner that was evident to us. The majority of papers are correspondence to Jacob Pennell, Sr. pertaining to the shipping business with his vessels. Letters are primarily from captains, ship agents and brokers. There is one account summary for the ship Jacob Pennell from New Orleans to Liverpool dated 1838. There is also an undated list of names with account due amounts.

All correspondence are incoming to Jacob Pennell, Sr. with a few incoming to both Jacob and his brother, Thomas Pennell. General correspondence is listed first followed by Captain's letters.

The Jacob Pennell, Sr. papers are organized into three series: Series I. Shipping Business, Series II. Personal papers, and Series III: Other papers. Series I: Shipping business is sorted into two subseries: Subseries IA: Correspondence and Subseries IB. Accounts.

In order to help direct users to letters that reference a captain's or vessel name, an index of vessel name (Appendix A) and a list of captains' names (Appendix B) was created.

## Biographical Notes

### **Jacob Pennell, Sr.**

Jacob Pennell, Sr. was born on July 28, 1778 to Thomas Pennell III (b.1738-d.1812) and Alice Anderson (b.1738-d.1839). Jacob Pennell Sr. and the Pennell family were an important family of shipbuilders in Brunswick, Maine. Jacob Pennell, Sr. married Deborah Dunning (b.1780-d.1861) on March 28, 1802.

Jacob Sr. and Deborah Dunning had eleven children—three daughters and eight sons:

Eliza (b.1802-d.1894)  
Benjamin Dunning (b.1804-d.1861)  
Jacob Jr. (b.1807-d.1882)  
James (b.1809-d.1865)  
Job Anderson (b.1812-d.1868)  
Charles Sewall (b.1815-d.1900)  
Paulina A. (B.1817-d.1899)  
Joseph Dunning (b.1828-d.1902)  
Harriet Jane (b.1822-d.1905)  
Robert Spear (b.1826-d.1899)  
John Dunning (b.1828-d.1878)

In 1780, Jacob Pennell's brother, Capt. William Pennell, bought a large farm on a point in Brunswick at the head of Middle Bay and built his home there. Capt. William Pennell would establish the Pennell Shipyard about 1822 (Baker, pg. 327)

It's important to note that Capt. William Pennell built ships at other locations before the Pennell Shipyard was established in 1822. Records show that Capt. William Pennell built the schooner *Hope* in 1910, the brig *Argo* in 1911, and the brig *Acteon* in 1917.

Capt. William Pennell sold his shipyard to his brother, Jacob Pennell, Sr.—although the exact year is unknown. Records show that Jacob Pennell Sr. built ten vessels between 1818 and 1839:

*Eliza* (Sloop, 1818)  
*Florida* (Schooner, 1822)  
*Washington* (Ship, 1829) *now owner of the Pennell Shipyard*  
*Romulus* (Ship, 1830)  
*Clement* (Bark, 1832)

*Henry* (Brig, 1832),  
*Charles* (Brig, 1834)  
*Jacob Pennell* (Ship, 1836)  
*Joseph Henry* (Brig, 1837)  
*Mary Pennell* (Brig, 1839).

The sons of Jacob Pennell, Sr. operated the yard from 1834 to 1874 as the Pennell Brothers.

Jacob Pennell, Sr. was a selectman for the town of Brunswick from 1819 to 1823. In February of 1841, he was appointed Justice of the Peace for the state of Maine. That same year on October 10, 1841, Jacob Pennell, Sr. died and was buried at the Pennell family cemetery in Brunswick, Maine.

### References:

1. Baker, William A. *A Maritime History of Bath, Maine and the Kennebec River Region*. Vol. 1. Bath, Maine: Marine Research Society of Bath, 1973.
2. Genealogical information from <http://www.ancestry.com>

### Scope and Content Notes

The Jacob Pennell, Sr. papers are primarily shipping business correspondence (1807-1841) and makes references to a number of vessels he owned and/or built. Business correspondence referring to the schooner *Farmer* and the brig *Amazon* were both owned by Jacob Pennell, Sr. Other correspondence refer to the bark *Clement* and the ships *Jacob Pennell* and *George*, vessels built by Jacob Pennell, Sr.

The correspondence is to Jacob Pennell, Sr. from ship agents and brokers regarding vessels and captain's letter. A few letters are addressed to both Jacob Pennell, Sr. and his brother Thomas. Captain's letters are from Peter Woodward, Clement Martin, William S. Given and Jesse Snow.

Correspondence for specific vessel related business includes the *Farmer* (Schooner), *Amazon* (Brig), *Clement* (Bark), *Amazon* (Brig), *Jacob Pennell* (Ship), and *Charles* (Brig). Other vessels mentioned in the correspondence are the *Mary Pennell* (Brig), *Cicero* (Ship), *Boston* (Ship), and *Eliza* (Schooner). There is a letter written by Asa Clapp to Jacob Pennell, Sr. regarding the *Cicero* (Ship), 1816. Correspondence pertains to bills, shipments, freight, costs, vessel damage, repairs, weather, voyages, shipping rates, market trends and procurement of business. Letters also record domestic and foreign trade of lumber, molasses, sugar, cotton, tobacco and salt.

The only accounts are for the ship *Jacob Pennell* and the brig *Charles*. The account for the ship *Jacob Pennell* is a summary account with Humphrey & Biddle Co. of Liverpool with a freight list and disbursements for a voyage from New Orleans to Liverpool from September to December 1838. The account for the brig *Charles* is a summary with E. Dickinson & Morris and invoice cargo bound for a market in the West Indies. This is dated January 2, 1838. There is one undated document listing payments due from Jacob Pennell, Jr. and payments due to George Brook. An exchange receipt for \$2000 written out in Guayanna [S.A.] dated February 15, 1839 and to be paid to Capt. Jesse Snow was placed with a letter written on February 27, 1839 from

Jesse Snow to Jacob Pennell. There appears to be some link between the letter and the bank note so these were kept together.

There is one reference to a crewman (Charles C. Grows) who was discharged from the brig *Charles* (folder 10) while in Norfolk bound for Guadalupe.

Family papers include three personal letters. The first is a letter from brother William Pennell who was living in Williamsburgh [Williamsburg, ME] dated May 29, 1830. William was living in Williamsburg, Maine at the time as a farmer. The second letter is from Peter C. Alden to Jacob Pennell about an estate dated June 22, 1839. This letter pertains to an estate settlement. The third letter refers to Jacob Pennell's appointment to the Justice of the Peace dated February 16, 1841.

There are three personal incoming letters to Jacob Pennell, Sr. (Series II) and one personal letter unrelated to Jacob Pennell, Sr. The author of this letter is John O. Rogers to his father. It appears that John O. (John Osborne) Rogers may have been a crewman on an unidentified vessel in Matanzas during January of 1865. An 1860 U. S. Federal Census record identifies a John O. Rogers, age 12, born in Brunswick, Maine. It also identifies his father as John Rogers, a ship carpenter. A death record for John O. Rogers, dated July 1906, describes him as a carpenter and his father, John Rogers, as a mariner. Could both these records of John O. Rogers be the same author of the letter? If so, he would have been 17 years old at the time he wrote the letter. Could his father worked as a ship carpenter in the Pennell Shipyard? Could his father been a captain for a Pennell vessel? Rachel Pennell, sister of Jacob, Sr., was married to a George Rogers. Is there a relationship between George and John Rogers? All these questions cannot be answered at this time. The letter has been placed in Series III: Other papers, as it is not written to or authored by any Pennell family member. There is one envelope with no contents with postal mark from Richmond, Maine dated March 31, also in this series.

## **Organization of Series**

### **Series I. Shipping business (1807-1841)**

**IA. Correspondence:** Business correspondence to Jacob Pennell, Sr. from assorted captains, ship agents and ship brokers regarding vessels.

**IB. Accounts:** Summary account for the *Jacob Pennell* (Ship) for voyage from New Orleans to Liverpool, September to December 1838. Invoice of cargo on board the brig *Charles*, dated January 2, 1838. Undated document listing names and accounts due.

**Series II. Personal papers (1830, 1839, 1841):** There are three personal letters for Jacob Pennell, Sr. One from his brother William Pennell from Williamsburg, Maine dated May 29, 1830, a second from Peter C. Alden dated June 22, 1839 and the third dated February 16, 1841 regarding Pennell's appointment as Justice of the Peace.

**Series III. Other (n.d., 1865)** A letter from John O. Rogers to father (possibly Capt. John Rogers) dated January 9, 1865. The relationship between the Rogers and Pennell's is not clearly understood. Also included is an envelope with no contents.

## MS-273 Jacob Pennell, Sr. Papers Container List

### Series I. Shipping Business

#### Box# Folder#

##### Subseries IA. Correspondence

- |   |    |                                                                  |
|---|----|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1  | General correspondence, 1807-1827                                |
|   | 2  | 1827-1829 (w/Thomas Pennell)                                     |
|   | 3  | 1835-38                                                          |
|   | 4  | 1839                                                             |
|   | 5  | 1840-41                                                          |
|   | 6  | Capt. Peter Woodward, re: <i>Farmer</i> (Schooner), 1807-08      |
|   | 7  | Capt. Clement Martin, re: <i>Amazon</i> (Brig), 1827-29          |
|   | 8  | 1835-36, re: <i>Clement</i> (Bark)                               |
|   | 9  | 1837-41, re: <i>Jacob Pennell</i> (Ship)                         |
|   | 10 | Capt. Jesse Snow, <i>Charles</i> (Brig), 1835-39                 |
|   | 11 | Capt. William S. Given, <i>Mary Pennell</i> (Brig) n.d., 1838-41 |

##### Subseries IB. Accounts

- |    |                                                                                                        |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 | Accounts, <i>Jacob Pennell</i> (Ship) New Orleans to Liverpool<br>Aug-Dec. 1838 (Capt. Clement Martin) |
| 13 | Invoice account, <i>Charles</i> (Brig), bound for West Indies (Capt. W. S. Given)                      |
| 14 | List of names, accounts due, n.d.                                                                      |

### Series II. Personal Correspondence

- |    |                                                                                           |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 | Correspondence, William Pennell, May 29, 1830                                             |
| 16 | Peter O. Alden, June 22, 1839                                                             |
| 17 | State of Maine Secretary's Office (Justice of the Peace appointment)<br>February 16, 1841 |

### Series III. Other papers

- |    |                                                               |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 | Correspondence, author John O. Rogers to father, Jan. 9, 1865 |
| 19 | Envelope, no contents [postal mark: Richmond, Me. Mar. 21]    |



#### APPENDIX A. LIST OF VESSEL NAMES

<b>Vessel Name</b>	<b>Folder #</b>
<i>Alice</i> (Brig) built Brunswick 1838	11
<i>Amazon</i> (Brig)	2, 7
<i>Boston</i> (Ship)	4
<i>Charles</i> (Brig)	10, 13
Cicero (Ship) [could this be the two-mast brig <i>Cicero</i> ]	1
<i>Clement</i> (Bark)	3, 9
<i>Clement</i> (Bark)	8
<i>Eliza</i> (Schooner)	4
<i>Farmer</i> (Schooner)	1, 6
<i>George</i> (Brig)	4
<i>Jacob Pennell</i> (Ship)	3, 9, 12
<i>Mary Pennell</i> (Brig)	3, 4, 5, 11
<i>Moro Castle</i> (Ship)	9

#### APPENDIX A. LIST OF CAPTAINS' NAMES

<b>Name</b>	<b>Folder #</b>
Badger	11
Chase	4, 5
Clap [Clapp], Asa	5, 1
Dory	1
Dunlap, John	2
Given, William S.	10, 11, 13
Harding, Robt.	5
Hinkley, Noah [ <i>also called Major</i> ]	1
Martin, Clement	1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12
McManus, Richard	11
Skolfield, Samuel	11
Snow, Jesse	10
Stanwood	5
Stevens, F. C.	4
Tolman	1
Woodbury, Peter	4, 6